

Amendments to the Specification

Please insert the following new paragraph on Page 1 of the specification, after the title:

--This application is filed under 35 U.S.C. 371(c) and is based upon PCT/US2003/022528, filed July 17, 2003, and further claims the benefit of United States provisional application number 60/396,504, filed on July 17, 2002.--

Please insert the following between Pages 2c and 3 of the amended specification:

--Additional features and advantages of the present invention will become more apparent by reference to the following detailed description and accompanying drawings.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Fig. 1 shows a perspective view of a product package according to an aspect of the invention.

Figs. 2 and 3 show front and rear views of the package shown in Fig. 1.

Figs. 4 and 5 show left and right side views of the package shown in Fig. 1.

Figs. 6 and 7 show top and bottom views of the package shown in Fig. 1.

Figs. 8 and 9 show, respectively, elevation views of an upper and lower end cap according to an aspect of the invention.

Fig. 10 shows a plan view of a blank for fabricating a sleeve according to an aspect of the invention.

Fig. 11 shows a plan view of the blank shown in Fig. 10, partially fabricated into a sleeve.

Fig. 12A shows a plan view of the blank shown in Fig. 10, fully fabricated into a sleeve.

Fig. 12B shows a side view of the blank shown in Fig. 12A.

Figs. 13A-13D show a series of diagrams illustrating the operation of a locking mechanism according to an aspect of the invention.

Fig. 14 shows a cutaway view of a sleeve and end cap illustrating the operation of a locking mechanism according to an aspect of the invention.--

Please insert the following new paragraph on Page 21, before the last paragraph of the specification:

--Locking tabs 110, 112, 114, 116, 174, or 252, as can be seen from the illustrations thereof, may have a high-aspect ratio, with a width that greatly exceeds the height thereof and, more particularly, a width that is more than twice the height thereof. Additionally, for a situation in which a given locking tab is trapezoidal or rectangular, it would also be true that any such locking tab would have at least a pair of parallel edges.--